

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16 canceled.

17. (original) A method for producing bleached chemical pulp from comminuted cellulosic fibrous material comprising:

(a) treating the material in a chemical pulping process in the presence of chemical additive to produce a chemical pulp containing at least some of the additive;

(b) treating the chemical pulp with at least one elemental-chlorine-free bleaching agent to produce a bleached chemical pulp having at least some discoloration due to the presence of the chemical additive; and

(c) treating the bleached pulp with at least one oxidizing agent to remove the discoloration produced by the presence of the chemical additive.

18. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein (a) is practiced using anthraquinone or its equivalents or derivatives as the chemical additive used in the pulping process.

19. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein (b) is practiced using as the at least one bleaching agent one or more of the following bleaching agents: oxygen, chlorine dioxide, sodium hydroxide, ozone, and hydrogen peroxide.

20. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein (b) is practiced so that the discoloration is characterized by a yellow or orange tinge to the pulp.

21. (original) A method as in claim 17 wherein (c) is practiced using as the oxidizing agent at least one of air, oxygen, peroxide, or ozone.

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Serial No. **Unknown**

22. (original) A method as in claim 18 wherein (c) is practiced using as the oxidizing agent a gas containing ozone; and wherein (a) is a soda/AQ pulping process; and wherein (b) is practiced using as the at least one bleaching agent one or more of the following bleaching agents: oxygen, chlorine dioxide, sodium hydroxide, ozone, and hydrogen peroxide.

23-25 canceled.